

Coalition medical care comes to Afghan village

By Spc. Sabrina Monn
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AROKI, Afghanistan — Afghan locals traveled from miles around Tuesday seeking much needed medical treatment.

Soldiers from Task Force-44, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, 924 Korean Medical Hospital, and many other units visited the quaint little village of Aroki, to conduct a Medical Civil Action Program.

This program provides medical services and improves the lives of the villagers. The operation gave primary care to the residents, including medical, dental, preventative medicine, wellness clinic and pharmaceutical services.

“This MEDCAP mission is the first here for Task Force-44, and we are very excited to do a good thing for the Afghan people,” said Lt. Col. Sharon McKinney, nurse, TF-44.

Although the mission only lasted about six hours, the medical staff treated and cared for each patient with quality care.

Patients had classes on mine awareness and hygiene and were given toothbrushes and toothpaste. After the hygiene classes, they were directed to medical staff who evaluated their symptoms.

“One of the things we want to do is educate the people on basic hygiene, which will eliminate some of the problems here,” said Col. Alan Beitler, doctor, TF-44.

From there, the staff referred them to male or female care, wellness center or dental care. “Depending on the illness, follow-up treatment will be conducted,” said Col. Paula Walker,



Photo by Maj. Robert Hepner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Carl Temple of the 48th Combat Surgical Hospital examines the teeth on a local Afghan boy during a visit to the village of Aroki.

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Tax deadlines extended for deployed troops

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Soldiers deployed here will not have to worry about their taxes until they return home.

Soldiers will not receive W-2s here. Reserve and National Guard soldiers' were mailed Jan. 13.

The National Guard's were sent to the soldiers' U.S. property and fiscal offices. The reserve's were mailed to the soldiers' home address.

Active-duty soldiers' W-2s will be sent to their home station finance no later than Jan. 27.

They are available to reserve and National Guard soldiers on *myPay*, Defense Finance and Accounting Center's military pay Website: www.dfas.mil/mypay. Active duty soldiers will not have access until after Jan. 27.

Deadline for filing taxes is automatically extended for soldiers who are deployed to a combat zone.

The Internal Revenue Service allows a

tax filing extension of 180 days after the last day the soldier is in a combat zone or the last day of continuous qualified hospitalization for injuries from service in the combat zone.

In addition to the 180 days, the deadline is also extended by the number of days that were left for the soldier to file with the IRS when they entered the combat zone. The tax filing period is Jan. 1–April 15.

When filing, soldiers should annotate

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Two teenagers play in the snow Thursday in Wilmington, N.C.

Eastern U.S. fall into deep freeze

ATLANTA, Ga. — Bitingly cold weather rolled over the eastern United States Thursday, creating snowy coastlines, icy

interstates and frigid conditions from Maine to Florida.

The National Weather Service issued freeze warnings that extended all the way to Key West, Florida, and into south Texas, and said frigid conditions would likely linger throughout the weekend.

Shelters that normally are shuttered and dark in January opened across the East as emergency workers hustled to accommodate people driven indoors by zero-degree weather and blustery winds. Florida farmers worked overtime to harvest their citrus before winter's blast killed their fruit and vegetables. Fire departments readied for fires started by people desperate to stay warm in the coldest weather of this young year.

The American Red Cross, overseeing shelters in the Northeast and South, said it was ready to open as many as 35 shelters in Florida if they were needed. The agency also was especially worried that fire departments

would be busy overnight.

"House fires go up significantly in cold weather," said Nancy Smith, speaking from Red Cross national headquarters in Falls Church, Va.

U.S. confident of support on Iraq

WASHINGTON — With apparent division growing among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the Bush administration asserted Thursday that it would have international support if it opts to use force to disarm Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"I don't think we'll have to worry about going it alone," said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. "If it can't be solved peacefully and if the U.N. should fail to act — and I hope that is not the case — then the United States reserves the right to do what it thinks is appropriate to defend its interests, the interests of its friends and to protect the world."



Now open...

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr. Robert P. Finn ceremoniously cut the red ribbon opening day of the Darulaman Veterinary Complex Wednesday. Finn was joined by the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force commander, Ministry of Agriculture officials, the director of the complex and the contractors to unveil the new facility. The CJCMOTF project took 300 local Afghans five months of work and cost \$426,000 to complete on time and on budget. The Animal Vaccine Quality Assurance Laboratory provides Afghanistan with quality and effective testing of vaccines for livestock, ensuring a safe and productive food source free of disease. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will provide a central facility to ensure animal dis-



Photos by Spc. Karlene E. Hemerly-Fluck, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

eases affecting food production and public health are recognized, diagnosed and controlled quickly and efficiently. Several soldiers, who are practicing veterinarians in the U.S., assigned to the CJCMOTF provided expertise with the project. The combined facilities will be managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Left: Finn applauds the successful opening ceremony of the Darulaman Veterinary Complex after the ribbon cutting.

Right: Chehlestoon middle school for girls participated in the opening ceremony for the Darulaman Veterinary Complex. This selected group of young women sang a beautiful song in Dari about their country of Afghanistan.

Critter of the Week:

Camel Spider



Photo by Maj. Scott Stockwell

By Capt. Cory Campora
791st Preventive Medicine Detachment

While in Afghanistan one may encounter a bizarre looking creature appearing to be half spider and half scorpion. While this critter is indeed an arachnid — the group which includes the orders of spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites — it is actually in an order all of its own (Solifugidae) and is commonly known as a camel spider, wind scorpion or sun spider depending on which part of the world you're in.

Camel spiders vary greatly size, with the largest species reaching up to six inches in length. During the day most camel spiders are inactive and remain in small burrows in the ground. At night they are voracious predators hunting primarily for insects, spiders and scorpions (large camel spiders can take down a mouse). While foraging, they are attracted to lights and may wander into tents at military bases in Afghanistan. For this reason when the weather is warm is it always wise to shake clothing and boots before getting dressed. Ninety-nine percent of camel spider species possess no venom. If provoked, however, they can inflict a painful bite.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: "Solaris." Upon arrival at the space station orbiting an ocean world called Solaris a psychologist discovers that the commander of an expedition to the planet has died mysteriously. Other strange events soon start happening as well, such as the appearance of old acquaintances of the crew, including some who are dead.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Drum Line."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Saturday
Bagram:	Dust H: 55F L: 27F	Haze H: 59F L: 25F
Kandahar:	Partly cloudy H: 61F L: 36F	Partly cloudy H: 61F L: 37F
Kabul:	Haze H: 54F L: 27F	Haze H: 50F L: 30F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly cloudy H: 37F L: 28F	Mostly cloudy H: 36F L: 26F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Coalition Joint Task Force - 180.

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To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil

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nurse, 1835th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control).

The Kabul Hospital or the Army Hospital at Bagram Air Base will provide follow-up care.

Another service provided at the MEDCAP was veterinary screening for the village animals. Many villagers brought cows and sheep for medical treatment. Each animal was treated for worms and acute medical aid. Often the health of the animals can directly affect the health of the villagers.

The MEDCAP helped build understanding and raised the comfort level between the U.S. and Coalition Forces with the local populous. "This was a successful operation. We had numerous soldiers who are highly trained, and want to do good things for the Afghan people. This is the exact reason why we are here," said Maj. David McCullin, 403rd CA Bn.

The civil affairs role in this mission was to assist and provide humanitarian outreach to the Afghans, also to facilitate the needs of the villages.

TAXES, from Page 1 —

the date of entry and exit from the combat zone and their operational designation (Operation Enduring Freedom, etc.) on the top of their tax returns in red ink so the IRS is aware of their status.

Any notice the IRS sends should be returned with the operational designation written at the top of the notice and on the envelope so the IRS can suspend the action.

No interest or penalties are charged during the extension.

Most states grant tax relief for servicemembers in combat zones. The extension time states give varies.

States are also diverse in their treat-

ment of penalties and interest. Some states waive penalties and interest, others forgive them. Soldiers can find out their state's policies by seeing their local legal assistant.

Soldiers with questions about their W-2s may see Staff Sgt. Marcia Greer, Military Pay noncommissioned officer in charge, E Detachment, 126th Finance Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., located on the second floor of Motel 6.

Soldiers can ask the IRS specific questions on filing and payment issues in a combat zone at combat@irs.gov

Also available for soldiers is IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide on the IRS website.



Photos by Maj. Robert Hepner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Above: Maj. Karen Davies, Task Force-44, screens local Afghan villagers at the triage station during the medical aid visit to Aroki village.

Below: Republic of Korea Capt. Yong-Min Cho, 924 Korean Medical Hospital, checks the blood pressure of an Aroki villager.





Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Frazar matches best career round

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Health problems got Harrison Frazar down, but never out.

That's more true than ever now that he's equipped with course-shortening equipment and a new putting philosophy.

Frazar tied his best PGA Tour score with a 9-under-par 62 Thursday to open a two-stroke lead over John Huston and David Toms after the first round of the Phoenix Open.

"I drove (No. 17) today," he said about a 332-yard hole his new Cleveland Pro V-1X driver helped him birdie. "Right in the middle of the green, pin-high, 35 or 40 feet from the hole. And it wasn't one of those drives where, as soon as it left the club face, you think, 'Oh, that one was so special.'"

Despite the attention focused on youngsters like Aaron Baddeley and Sergio Garcia, the first round belonged to a relatively obscure veteran who has never won a PGA tournament.



Frazar has never won on tour, but he's in good position in Scottsdale.

Serena refuses to be stopped

MELBOURNE, Australia — Blisters, a big deficit and two match points couldn't derail the "Serena Slam."

Now only her sister stands in Serena Williams' way.

Serena rallied from two breaks down in the final set to beat Kim

Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the Australian Open semifinals Thursday and set up a fourth straight major final against her sister Venus.

"I'm a fighter," Serena said. "I didn't come all these miles to lose."

Serena beat Venus in the finals at the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open last year. One more win means she will be the first woman to hold all four major titles at once since Steffi Graf nine years ago.

The sisters also combined to reach the women's doubles final, beating Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond 6-2, 6-2.

Venus started another big day for the Williams sisters by beating Justine Henin-Hardenne 6-3, 6-3.

"Venus is actually playing a little better than me at this tournament," Serena said. "I've just got to pull something out of my back pocket to be able to go on to the next level."



Serena won her 27th straight Grand Slam match.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

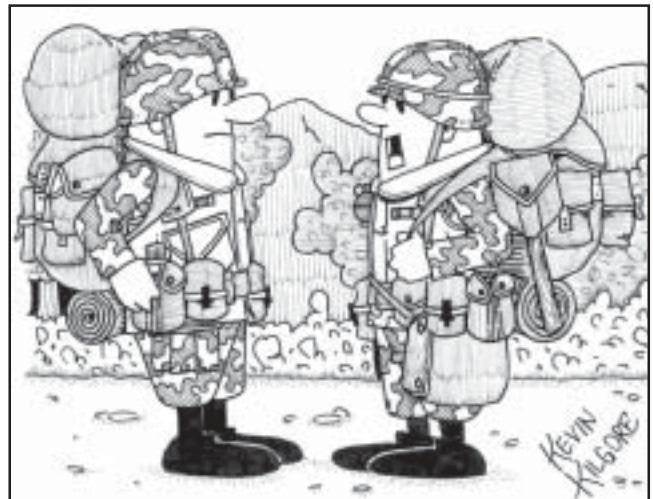
Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ NFL 2Night (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖ Edge NFL Matchup (live) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖ Ballroom Boxing (tape delayed) 0130Z, 0600L
- ❖ Australian Open - Women's Finals 0230Z, 0700L
- ❖ SportsCenter at the Super Bowl (live) 0400Z, 0830L
- ❖ Washington Wizards @ Chicago Bulls (tape delayed) 1230Z, 1500L
- ❖ Inside the NFL (tape delayed) 1430Z, 1830L
- ❖ Georgetown @ Pittsburgh (live) 1700Z, 2130L
- ❖ Notre Dame @ Boston College (live) 1900Z, 2330L

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Louisville @ Tennessee (tape delayed) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖ Australian Open - Men's Final (live) 0300Z, 0730L
- ❖ FIA SportsCar Championship (tape delayed) 0601Z, 1031L
- ❖ Phoenix Open (PGA) (tape delayed) 0730Z, 1130L
- ❖ Boxing: Vernon Forrest vs Ricardo Mayorga (tape delayed) 1230Z, 1630L
- ❖ ESPN Magazine's Sports Reporters (live) 1500Z, 1930L
- ❖ SportsCenter at the Super Bowl (live) 1530Z, 2000L
- ❖ Syracuse @ Miami (live) 1800Z, 2230L

"If this is the light infantry, I'd hate to see what the heavy infantry is like."



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By Kevin Kilgore

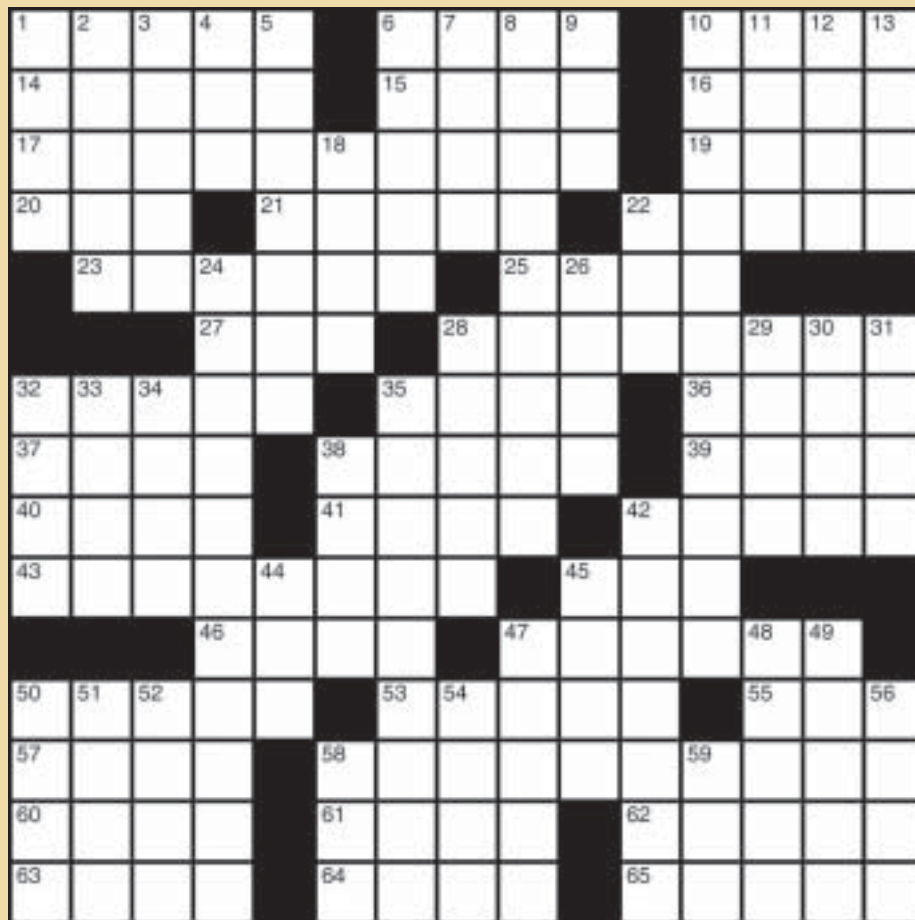
Laugh Support

Tree Folk crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

- 1 Airline founded in 1927
- 6 Nautical attention-getter
- 10 '70s-'80s TV alien
- 14 Adult insect
- 15 Goalie's success
- 16 "___ a roll!"
- 17 Partner of Gordon Waller on the tune "A World Without Love"
- 19 Rural storehouse
- 20 Ltr. insert
- 21 Place for vows
- 22 Largish combo
- 23 Tends to the stubble
- 25 Design with acid
- 27 Put a stop to
- 28 "Hold it!"
- 32 ___ cum laude
- 35 The inevitable
- 36 Raines or Cinders
- 37 Jai ___
- 38 Gavel pounder's word
- 39 Bank transaction
- 40 Film producer Schary
- 41 Marina walkway
- 42 Silvery fish
- 43 Savings account transactions
- 45 Neptune's domain
- 46 Help in a heist
- 47 Marathon entrant
- 50 Decaf name
- 53 Spiral-horned antelope
- 55 ___ culpa
- 57 Autobahn auto
- 58 CBS Sports broadcaster
- 60 "A ___ formality"
- 61 Russo of film
- 62 The terrible twos, e.g.
- 63 Whirling water
- 64 Bookie's quote
- 65 Achy spots



Down

- 1 Popeye's tooter
- 2 Prayer ends
- 3 "Of course!"
- 4 Census datum
- 5 Region of the Czech Republic
- 6 Aides: Abbr.
- 7 "LOL," vocalized
- 8 Buffet patron, perhaps
- 9 Suffix with law or saw
- 10 Russian-born violin virtuoso
- 11 Fail to name
- 12 Balboa, to Stallone
- 13 Two-by-four flaw
- 18 Football's Karras
- 22 Columbus Day mo.
- 24 Renowned sharpshooter
- 26 Stadium level
- 28 Enjoys the kiddie pool
- 29 Gin flavoring
- 30 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 31 Is unable to
- 32 Anti-DWI activists
- 33 Sunburn soother
- 34 John Irving title hero T. S. ___
- 35 ___ away (squandered)
- 38 Role for Ronny
- 42 Parodies
- 44 Entrepreneur-aiding org.
- 45 Crooned
- 47 Goes ballistic
- 48 Imprison
- 49 Teammate of Snider and Campanella
- 50 A handful of
- 51 Mimicked
- 52 Social misfit
- 54 Act the shylock
- 56 Tavern potables
- 58 A doz. doz.
- 59 Unit of conductance

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch